

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PASSAVANT RETIREMENT COMMUNITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Passavant Retirement Community on the 100th year anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 100 years, the Passavant Retirement Community has been successful at encouraging their residents to maintain their independence, while also staying involved in community activities. Situated on 42 acres in the historic Lawrence County town of Zelienople, the retirement community has a true sense of caring and community among residents and staff. I recognize Passavant Retirement Community for all of their hard work and dedication to serving the citizens of western Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the Passavant Retirement Community. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such principled organizations as the Passavant Retirement Community.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW D. DAWLEY FOR RECEIVING THE AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Senior Airman Matthew Dawley has served his country with honor and courage in the United States Air Force; and

Whereas, Senior Airman Matthew Dawley is to be commended for his actions with the 45th Civil Engineer Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida; and

Whereas, Senior Airman Matthew Dawley is the recipient of the Air Force Achievement Medal for meritorious service.

Therefore, I join with family and friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Senior Airman Matthew Dawley of the United States Air Force for his service to our country and celebrate with him in receiving the Air Force Achievement Medal. Your service has made us proud.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Pasadena/Foothills Chapter, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations.

The United Nations Association of the United States of America Pasadena/Foothills Chapter was formed in 1947 and is one of the largest UNA-USA chapters in the Nation, encompassing most of the San Gabriel Valley, Burbank, Glendale, and Northeast Los Angeles. In 1972, it was one of the first chapters to be incorporated and then began an extensive program to educate the general public about the United Nations.

The Pasadena/Foothills Chapter of the UNA-USA has been most active in the field of education. They sponsor the UNA-USA National High School Essay Contest annually and also host current-event lectures on a regular basis. A quarterly newsletter, *Our World*, is also published to increase public awareness of advocacy issues and current foreign affairs. The Chapter has also most recently sponsored a Great Decisions course at Pasadena City College, taught by a current board member.

The current focus of the Pasadena/Foothills Chapter is to incorporate the Model United Nations curriculum into elementary and high schools in the Pasadena Area. The Model U.N. program encourages leadership and cooperation, while giving students opportunities to take part in competitions in the arenas of International Affairs, Human Rights, and Conflict Resolution.

The Pasadena/Foothills Chapter is also involved in many philanthropic efforts and sponsors an event known as the Night of a Thousand Dinners, raising over \$12,000 in the last 2 years for land mine clearance. Trips to U.N. Conferences in countries such as Turkey, China, Italy, Cuba, and South Africa have also been organized by the Chapter.

This year, the Pasadena/Foothills Chapter is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations. The Chapter is organizing an event at the Pacific Asia Museum that showcases the artwork of local and international artists centering on the themes of peace and equality to commemorate the founding of the U.N.

I ask all Members to join me in recognizing the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Pasadena/Foothills chapter, for its nearly 60 years of incredible work and service to the greater Pasadena Area.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 437, ESTABLISHING THE SELECT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina took an enormous personal toll on thousands of families across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, many of whom are now relocated in neighboring states and need to begin rebuilding their lives. Congress' first priority must be to ensure the evacuees have the necessary resources.

We must also determine why the Federal response, led by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security failed to recognize the urgency of the situation. Americans may have died because of the Federal Government's slow response. This is unacceptable.

Last Thursday, the House passed legislation in support of a bipartisan committee to investigate the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately the committee will not truly be bipartisan because it will be selected and led by the Republican leadership, which may be inclined to place blame on local officials while overlooking mistakes made by the Bush Administration. This will not give us the objectivity that we need. We must have an independent panel modeled after the 9/11 Commission.

It is not a question of Members being capable of serving on a committee, but I fear their political affiliations will cause many Americans to doubt the validity of their conclusions and findings. Americans no longer trust their elected officials to set aside politics and develop objective conclusions identifying personnel and policy that failed us during Katrina and what can be done to remedy our emergency infrastructure failures.

The 9/11 commission put politics aside and delivered concise and direct conclusions about failings in our intelligence infrastructure. We need to again appoint a similar non-partisan commission to ensure what happened in New Orleans never happens again and this begins with the response and actions of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security.

I was pleased that Congress acted quickly to appropriate funds for the states and victims of the disaster. Congress has the responsibility to ensure that FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security use this aid appropriately to help those harmed by Katrina.

Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security there have been detailed instances of contracting fraud and waste. In an effort to prevent this practice in the future, I have cosponsored legislation that calls for the creation of an Inspector General for Natural Disaster Response and Reconstruction

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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